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# WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, West Dean & Lydney Rural District Councils)

## ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*for the year*

1953



# West Gloucestershire United District

(EAST DEAN, WEST DEAN AND LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICTS)

## ANNUAL REPORT

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## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1953

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,  
COLEFORD, GLOS.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils  
of the West Gloucestershire United District

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953. I have prepared this in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and the Ministry of Health Circular 1/54. I have attempted to cover the essentials, aimed at brevity and refrained from including matters outside the Council's influence. Care has been taken not to work out rates based on too small numbers as such rates are misleading.

I am grateful to the Chairmen and Members of the Councils for the consideration that they have shown me and I should like to place on record my appreciation of the care and attention that they have given to the many problems of the area. I am grateful to the Sanitary Inspectors for their loyal support and to the other officers of the Councils for their co-operation. I have to thank many officers for their assistance in compiling this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT,

Medical Officer of Health.

## Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE THREE DISTRICT COUNCILS:

A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

### SANITARY INSPECTORS:—

EAST DEAN

A. D. PARSONS, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I. (Senr.)  
R. R. CHARMAN, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I. (Re-  
signed 31/10/53)  
G. M. HOPKINS, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I. (Com-  
menced 1/12/53)

WEST DEAN

W. BEBB, M.S.I.A. (Commenced 1/4/53)

LYDNEY

W. M. RICHARDS, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.

All the inspectors have the Certificate in the Inspection of Meat and other foods.

### RODENT OPERATORS:—

F. MATTHEWS, East Dean and Lydney  
R.Ds.

E. NELMES, West Dean part-time and  
part-time Inspector.

### DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE CLERK:—

H. H. THOMAS



## VITAL STATISTICS

### Birth and Death Rates Compared (Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

	Birth Rate	Death Rate
England and Wales .. ..	15.5	11.4
160 County Borough and Great Towns (including London) ..	17.0	12.2
160 Smaller Towns .. .. (25,000—50,000 population)	15.7	11.3
London Administrative County ..	17.5	12.5
Gloucestershire .. ..	15.7	11.2
Combined Forest Area .. ..	16.2(17.6)	11.2(11.2)
East Dean .. ..	17.2(17.9)	12.5(12.8)
West Dean .. ..	17.3(19.0)	11.9(11.5)
Lydney R.D. .. ..	14.9(17.2)	8.8( 8.9)

Area comparatibility factors for the birth and death rates were issued by the Registrar General for the small authorities and when the local rates are multiplied by the appropriate factors they are 'corrected' for irregularities of distribution of age and sex and so are a more accurate method of comparing the healthiness of one area with that of another. The 'corrected' rates are given above in brackets.

During the year, however, the Registrar General ceased to refer back to their appropriate districts the deaths in Mitcheldean Hospital and this has unnaturally raised the death rate in the East Dean R.D.

There were 19 deaths in infants under 1 year of age to the 830 live births in my combined area. This is too small a figure to work out an Infantile Mortality Rate but it appears to represent a rate at least as low as the National Rate of 26.8 (i.e. 26.8 deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births).

There were no deaths associated with childbirth again this year.

### **Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Part VII.**

When a case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis is notified a sample of the milk supply is submitted for biological examination for tubercle bacilli i.e. it is injected into a guinea pig. During the year the Newport Laboratory commenced such examination of all milk samples submitted. When, in May, a boy in the West Dean R.D. was notified as suffering from tuberculosis of the neck glands a sample of the milk supplied had already been sent for biological examination. This was reported on as positive and a notice was

served upon the farmer supplying the retailer requiring him to have all the milk from his farm pasteurised before being sold. The Veterinary Surgeon of the County Agricultural Advisory Committee examined the herd, isolated one cow after clinically diagnosing tuberculosis of the udder. This was confirmed by post-mortem examination. When the milk from the rest of the herd was examined it was free from tubercle bacilli and the Order was withdrawn. Nevertheless the farmer continued to send his milk for pasteurisation.

### **National Assistance Act, 1947, Section 47 and National Assistance (Amendment Act) 1951**

In the East Dean R.D. only one Order was obtained and that was to remove an old man from a house in which he was living alone.

In the West Dean R.D. the only action taken was an Order from a Justice under the Amendment Act to remove an old man who was living alone to a hospital for the chronic sick.

In the Lydney R.D. Justice's Orders were obtained to remove a man and wife to a chronic sick hospital.

The operation of this Section entails a considerable amount of work. Very full consideration has to be given to each case. This involves consultation with relations and neighbours. Persuasion is used to the full and it is only with reluctance that these compulsory powers are used. Many cases were investigated during the year but in the above cases compulsion was found necessary.

### **Anthrax Order 1938**

Seven notifications were received from the police under this Order (two in Lydney R.D. and five in East Dean). All applied to pigs and in three cases the disease was confirmed. The infection was probably from infected food. Only by rigid precautions is it possible to keep this disease at its present low level in this country.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

### **Measles.**

There was a general epidemic of this disease during the first half of the year and every parish was affected.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Ninety-eight cases were notified; these were uniformly mild. This disease, after a period of severity appears to have reached a phase so mild as to resemble the disease as first described by Sydenham in 1676—a rash and nothing more. He did not associate a



sore throat with the disease and many of last year's cases had very little in the way of sore throat and very transient pyrexia. The epidemic which occurred in the Cinderford area in March was mild and atypical.

### **Whooping Cough.**

This was widespread during the latter half of the year. It affected Aylburton and Lydney in March, Bream and Whitecroft in June, Lydney and Pillowell in July, there were scattered cases in the East Dean R.D. from July to September and in October affected Hope Mansell, Longhope and Lydbrook. In November it affected Coleford, Cinderford and Ruardean and in December St. Briavels and Hewelsfield as well as Cinderford and Ruardean.

My Councils were concerned at the suffering and chronic chest illness caused by this disease and are most anxious that immunisation should be carried out by the Local Health Authority as soon as the reports of trials show it to be effective.

### **Chickenpox.**

This mild disease was prevalent at Christchurch in May and June and during the last quarter of the year at Lydney, St. Briavels, Broadwell, Yorkley, Steam Mills, Blakeney and Ruardean.

### **Mumps.**

This was epidemic at Lydney and Pillowell in January, Yorkley in February to May and at Coleford and Aylburton in March and Tidenham in June.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

I am very glad to say that there were no cases during the year.

### **Meningococcal Infections.**

There was one fulminating case of meningococcal meningitis which was fatal. Another case was notified but was never proven and recovered completely.

### **Malaria.**

The three cases notified were in personnel at the Beachley Army Apprentices' School who had had this disease while on foreign service.

### **Food Poisoning.**

Only two cases were notified. One was a lady who appeared to be infected by a made-up meal in Gloucester. The infecting organism was *Salmonella typhimurium*.

### **Dysentery.**

Three cases were notified and a few more came to my notice. This spread through a family and spread a little by contagion in a school. These were sonne cases.

# Notifications of Infectious Disease

1953	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection	Tuberculosis
Cinderford ..	80	51	39								13
Drybrook ..	96	16	6	1		2					9
Ruspidge ..	3	4	10								3
Awre ..	5	15	3		1		2				1
Mitcheldean ..	40	12	5		1						4
Littledean ..	34		4								2
Longhope ..	32	12					1				1
Ruardean ..	8	12	3								
Churcham ..	3	6	1								
Huntley ..	28	1					1				
Blaisdon ..	1										2
Coleford ..	37	18	1								1
English Bicknor ..	2	3	2								1
Lydbrook ..	3	53	6			1					6
Clearwell ..	2							1			1
Redbrook ..	1										
Staunton ..	2	2									
Bream ..	12	15	1								6
Ellwood ..	3										
Broadwell ..	52	2		1			2				1
Berry Hill ..	50	20					1	1			1
Milkwall ..	28	2	1					1			
Pillowell ..	1	32	1								
Parkend ..		9									
Yorkley ..		15			2						7
Viney Hill ..											
Lydney ..	5	35	8								5
Tidenham ..	39	4	6						3		3
St. Briavels ..	3	21					1				2
Aylburton ..	3	11								1	
Woolaston ..	1	2	1								
Hewelsfield ..	6	3			1					1	1
Alvington ..	1	3									
Male ..	262	198	46	—	3	—	6	2	3	2	36
Female ..	319	181	52	2	2	3	2	1	—	—	34
Total ..	581	379	98	2	5	3	8	3	3	2	70



## Influenza.

There was a mild epidemic of this disease in February.

## Diphtheria.

There were no cases of this disease again this year. One notification was received but in this case the disease was not confirmed. This is a happy state of affairs but it cannot be too often emphasised that this depends upon a high state of immunity in the child population brought about by immunisation. The figures for England and Wales for last year were 240 notifications with 24 deaths.

The most powerful element in immunisation publicity was the personal persuasion by doctors, health visitors, district nurses and voluntary workers in welfare centres and other organisations. There is also the background publicity given by posters and newspaper advertisements.

Annual Return of Diphtheria Immunisations for the year:

Number of children immunised.						Booster
	Under 1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Total	Injections
East Dean ..	136	70	50	7	263	210
West Dean ..	96	84	48	3	231	255
Lydney R.D. ..	41	59	20	2	122	133
Totals ..	273	213	118	12	616	598

The Ministry of Health aims at 75% of children being protected before their first birthday. In this area some 33% are so protected. The average for the country is 31%. A larger number of children are immunised at school so that 75% of children are immunised by the time they reach their tenth birthdays.

## Smallpox Vaccination—Annual Return for 1953.

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2—4	5—15	15 or over	Total
EAST DEAN						
(a) Number vaccinated	32	—	2	3	6	43
(b) Number re-vaccinated	—	—	1	1	19	21
WEST DEAN						
(a) Number vaccinated	37	2	3	5	3	50
(b) Number re-vaccinated	—	—	—	1	13	14
LYDNEY						
(a) Number vaccinated	49	2	5	4	11	71
(b) Number re-vaccinated	1	—	1	1	28	31
TOTAL FOREST AREA						
(a) Number vaccinated	118	4	10	12	20	164
(b) Number re-vaccinated	1	—	2	3	60	66

Thus 118 vaccinations were done within the first year of life to the 830 births amounting to about one child in seven.

## Tuberculosis.

There were 70 new cases notified during the year and 470 names on the combined Registers at the end of the year. This is an increase on 1952 and 1951, but the number of deaths were only 11, compared with 18 for 1952 and 17 for 1951.

Notifications during the year:

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
East Dean	..	..	13	19	1	2
West Dean	..	..	12	8	2	2
Lydney R.D.	..	..	7	3	1	—
			32	30	4	4

Cases on Registers at the end of the year.

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Totals
East Dean	..	..	88	89	4	13	194
West Dean	..	..	106	69	18	9	202
Lydney R.D.	..	..	41	25	3	5	74
			235	183	25	27	470

## Mass Radiography Unit.

The district was fortunate in having a quite comprehensive visit from the Unit during the year. The number X-rayed at the various centres was as follows:—

			Male	Female	Total
Mitcheldean	..	..	263	157	420
Cinderford	..	..	819	697	1,516
Double View School	..	..	213	185	398
Lydney	..	..	428	347	775
Lydney schoolchildren	..	..	226	152	378
Steel Company of Wales	..	..	188	9	197
Factories Direction Ltd.	..	..	272	167	439
Lydbrook	..	..	228	212	440
Ediswan Works	..	..	470	162	632
Coleford	..	..	364	304	668
Yorkley	..	..	86	79	165
Whitcroft	..	..	75	121	196
Carters Ltd.	..	..	256	232	488
			3,888	2,824	6,712

Among these 6,712 persons X-rayed 115 abnormal conditions were found including 14 active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

### Water Analyses.

	West Dean Reservoir at the Pludds 1st July	East Dean Mains supply from service tap 15th Oct.	Mitcheldean Supply untreated 3rd Nov.	East Dean Main Supply Raw water at Greenbottom Pumping St. 3rd Nov	East Dean Blakeney Hill Supply Raw water 3rd Nov.
Chemical Analysis (parts per million)					
Total dissolved solids ..	340	308	478	314	253
Loss on ignition ..	78	6			
Mineral matter .. ..	262	302	not done		
Total hardness .. ..	304	258	398	272	226
(a) Permanent .. ..	122	95	98	57	46
(b) Temporary .. ..	182	163	300	215	180
Chlorine (as chloride) ..	12	12	13	15	15
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia .. ..	nil	nil	0.004	0.008	nil
Nitrogen as Albuminoid Ammonia .. ..	nil	nil	nil	0.008	0.004
Nitrogen as Nitrates .. ..	2.01	3.27	2.2	4.2	0.8
Nitrogen as nitrites .. ..	nil	nil	0.001	nil	0.001
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter in 4 hours ..	nil	nil	0.56	nil	0.06
pH value .. ..	7.6	7.8	7.1	7.5	7.5
Metals:		slight			
Zinc .. ..	nil	trace			
Bacteriological examination ..	not	done			
Micro-organisms in ml. grow- ing on agar at 22oC in 3 days			1200	1	24
Micro-organisms in 1 ml. grow- ing on agar at 37oC in 48 hours			960	1	17
B.coli approx. No. per 100mls.			250	0	0

The first two of these samples were analysed at the University of Bristol Laboratory and the last three by Turner and Ellis, of Gloucester.

### Analyst.

The Public Health Laboratory at Newport continued to give very valuable service.

Chemical analyses were done by the University of Bristol Analyst or by Turner and Ellis, of Gloucester.



## EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT

Area=30,475 acres. Population=20,410 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses=6,023.

Rateable Value=£62,145; Product of 1d. Rate=£225.

Birth Rate=17.2 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04 this gives a corrected rate of 17.9.

Excess of births over deaths=343—256=87. ..

Death Rate=12.5 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.02 this gives a corrected rate of 12.8.

### Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	173	145	318	16	9	23	189	154	343
Still Births	2	5	7	1	—	1	3	5	8
Deaths under 1 year	5	2	7	—	—	—	5	2	7
Deaths under 4 weeks	2	2	4	—	—	—	2	2	4

### Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	1	2	3
Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	2	3
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	21	25	46
Diabetes .. .. .	1	4	5
Vascular diseases of the nervous system ..	10	21	31
Coronary disease and angina .. ..	12	7	19
Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	2	1	3
Other heart disease .. .. .	16	28	44
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	8	6	14
Influenza .. .. .	2	7	9
Pneumonia .. .. .	8	2	10
Bronchitis .. .. .	11	7	18
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	11	—	11
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	2	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	1	5	6
Hyperplasia of the prostate .. .. .	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations .. .. .	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	9	13	22
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	3	2	5
All other accidents .. .. .	1	1	2
Suicide .. .. .	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war .. ..	—	—	—
Totals .. .. .	122	134	256



**Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply.**

Parish			Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to mains supply	
					(i) direct	(ii) standpipe
Cinderford	..	..	7,028	2,085	2,054	
Drybrook	..	..	2,911	846	832	
Ruspidge	..	..	1,978	567	520	
Awre	..	..	1,894	526	247	70
Mitcheldean	..	..	1,775	583	325	62
Littledean	..	..	1,282	382	304	
Longhope	..	..	1,071	311		
Ruardean	..	..	1,044	311	282	
Churcham	..	..	665	197	45	
Huntley	..	..	449	131	75	
Blaisdon	..	..	313	86		
Total East Dean R.D.			20,410	6,025	4,684	132

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S SANITARY NOTES

### **Water Supply.**

Whereas the largest part of the built-up area receives a wholesome supply of water from the Council's mains yet there are still parts of the District not adequately supplied.

### **Greenbottom Supply.**

This supplies some 4,239 properties in Cinderford, Drybrook, Ruardean, Ruspidge and Blakeney Hill. Twenty-three samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to bacteriological examination, twenty of these were satisfactory, two showed slight contamination and one was unsatisfactory. These samples are not necessarily taken with the Surveyor's knowledge and it so happened that the last sample was taken just after a damaged main had been repaired.

### **Mitcheldean Supply.**

The town continued to depend upon the Old Cement Works Supply. Of 15 samples taken seven were reported on as satisfactory and the other eight as contaminated. In three the contamination was described as gross. Inhabitants were warned by newspaper advertisement and by leaflet to boil the water before use. The scheme to supply Mitcheldean and the parish of Longhope by mains water appears to be some way ahead.

### **Longhope.**

A sample taken of a spring supply to the Council house estate was reported on as showing slight pollution.

### **Blaisdon.**

The supply here is a spring which is piped and supplies some 27 properties of which 26 are supplied by standpipe and only one has a tap in the house. Of the seven samples taken all were reported on as contaminated. This village is far from the Council's main supply and there are no proposals at present to supply it.

### **Lea Bailey Supply.**

This is small supply utilising water from the Old Gold Mine and of the four samples taken during the year three were reported on as contaminated.

### **Southern Area Supply.**

This utilises water from a well and from surface springs in the Blackpool Valley. It is pumped to a reservoir on Blakeney Hill and joins the Council's mains to supply Blakeney and Brains Green. Permission was obtained previously to supply Blakeney village and permission was obtained during the year to supply Awre. Five samples were taken during the year and all were reported on as satisfactory.

## Churcham and Huntley.

These parishes are in the Statutory supply area of Gloucester Corporation and more properties were connected during the year. One sample only was taken and this was satisfactory.

## Sewerage.

Permission was sought to sewer Blakeney. The poor water supply and poor sanitation at Blakeney School was considered by the County Education Committee and by the District Council. The water supply was from a well in the garden and the sanitation, bucket lavatories. Mains water will soon be provided and I hope that it will soon be possible to sewer the village. This will be far preferable to the construction of works to deal with this school.

## Post-War Housing Progress

Mr. L. A. Andrews has given me the following summary:

The total number of houses of all kinds completed during the year was 148, made up of 114 local authority dwellings and 34 private enterprise dwellings. No houses were built during 1946.

Parish	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Cinderford .. ..	—	50	14	24	32	28	18	166
Drybrook .. ..	4	28	—	6	10	3	20	71
Ruspidge .. ..	—	—	2	12	2	—	28	44
Awre .. ..	—	—	17	—	—	—	6	23
Mitcheldean .. ..	2	—	34	4	—	—	28	68
Littledean .. ..	3	—	12	—	6	12	—	33
Longhope .. ..	—	—	2	6	4	—	2	14
Ruardean .. ..	—	—	—	4	9	6	12	31
Churcham .. ..	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	12
Huntley .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	8
Blaisdon .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9	78	93	56	63	57	114	470
Types	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Traditional .. ..	3	18	49	28	25	37	24	184
Pre-fab. bungs. ..	—	60	—	—	12	—	—	72
Airey .. ..	—	—	44	6	—	—	—	50
Swedish Timber ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Cornish Unit .. ..	—	—	—	22	26	—	—	48
Woolaway .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	20	12	32
Unity .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	78
	9	78	93	56	63	57	114	470
Private Houses ..	5	3	11	10	12	23	34	98
	14	81	104	66	75	80	148	568



## SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Harry Jones reports as follows:

### Water Supply.

During the year ending 31st December, 1953, the demand for water increased throughout the Rural District, and the total quantity of water consumed from the Council's sources at Greenbottom, near Littledean, was 179,149,000 gallons. This represented an increase of 9,876,000 gallons over the Year ending 31st December, 1952. The daily average was therefore 490,820 gallons.

The supply at the Greenbottom Waterworks was sufficient to maintain a continuous supply during the whole of the year, except for a temporary shortage during the latter end of October and the beginning of November, when the supply at Littledean Hill, Cinderford, was found to be inadequate at certain hours of the day.

Difficulties were met with too on other high sections of District, more particularly Viney Hill, Plump Hill, Wigpool, and a portion of Mitcheldean. In these cases the difficulty was not that resulting from shortage of water, but more of the inadequacy of the size of mains supplying those Districts.

In addition, 10,910,000 gallons were pumped from the new source at Blakeney Hill which was developed under the Southern Area Water Supply Scheme. This source supplies water to the Blakeney Hill, Viney Hill, Brains Green and Lower Soudley districts. In addition, three temporary stand-pipes in Blakeney village are also supplied with water from this source.

The Council was not able to avail itself of water from the new source at Lydbrook being developed by West Dean Rural District Council. It had been hoped to commence taking water from this source early in the year, but due to unforeseen difficulties the expected date for commencing the bulk supply is now in March, 1954.

Seventy-nine new connections were made to the Council's water mains for supplies to private houses—78 of these being in East Dean and one in the Newnham Parish of Gloucester Rural District Council. Eight further connections were made to the mains for supplies for other than domestic purposes. In addition, 112 new connections were made to supply new houses constructed by the Council.

Many small extensions to the Council's mains were made to serve private development and also the Council's new housing estates in many portions of the District.



During the year, the use of water taken from a private source to serve 12 Council Houses at Lake Lane, Bulley, near Churcham, was discontinued, and a supply was made available from a new main laid by the Gloucester Corporation.

The supply at Mitcheldean which was taken over from the Mitcheldean Water Company still remains unsatisfactory—the water from the springs and boreholes still shows varying degrees of pollution.

### **Public Conveniences.**

New public conveniences were constructed in the Parishes of Littledean and Ruardean, and work was commenced on the construction of new Conveniences in the Parish of Mitcheldean.

### **Bilson Refuse Tip.**

The work of levelling and fencing the Bilson Refuse Tip, Cinderford, was completed during the year.

## **SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

224 advisory visits and inspections were made in connection with new drainage and sewerage. There were 40 small sewerage plants constructed and 33 new connections to the sewers.

### **Public Cleansing.**

As a result of a forest track being surfaced at Pitching Green, Blakeney, there was an extension of the Blakeney refuse collection for 12 more houses.

The refuse tip at Etloe had extended to the extent of requiring the rest of the culverting of surface water away. It was necessary also to renew the gate and posts and to fix a notice board forbidding trespass.

The much required fencing of Bilson Tip was completed and a more satisfactory method of disposal is now being carried on.

The Quabbs Lane refuse tip at Longhope had increased so that it was necessary to cut back some of the trees in the quarry.

Throughout the year there were a few small outbreaks of fire which burnt themselves out and required no immediate treatment. Only in a few cases was it necessary to take action for accumulations of refuse in back gardens.

As usual, dead animals in the streets were satisfactorily disposed of whenever such cases were reported.

## **Water Samples.**

Eighty-seven samples of water were taken for analysis, eight of which were from private wells. Sixty-seven were satisfactory and twenty were unsatisfactory.

Only one sample from the private wells was satisfactory.

## **Ice Cream.**

Number of premises registered for production: Hot mix	..	1
Number of premises registered for production: Cold mix	..	5
Number of premises registered for storage and sale	..	59
		—
		65
		—

These figures show an increase of two registrations for the storage and sale of ice cream.

Thirty-six samples were taken for analysis and the results of the analyses were as follows:

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
26	8	2	nil

## **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	586
Number of treatments	..	..	..	..	259
Number of block control treatments			..	..	9

The Council sewers received their general inspections and treatments, the refuse tips were constantly inspected for rats and treated as required.

## **Milk and Dairies.**

Fifty-six samples of milk were taken, five of which were for biological examination. All but nine samples were reported on as satisfying the statutory tests.

A quarter of the total samples were taken at a producer's dairy in order to isolate the presence of several undesirable organisms in the milk.

## **Factories Act, 1937.**

Thirty-nine visits and inspections were made at factories in the district for the main provision of sanitary accommodation and for fire escape exits as required by the above Act.

## **Shop Act, 1950.**

Nineteen shop inspections were carried out for the purpose of Section 38 which is now the duty of the Sanitary Authority. Premises which were used in connection with food were more appropriately inspected in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.



## **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

Again one renewal licence to keep a pet shop was issued for the year. This shop was being run very satisfactorily in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Act.

## **Housing.**

During the year numerous complaints were received from people to inspect their living conditions. Their requests were always investigated, and full reports made. These reports were very useful later in assisting a compilation of applicants for the appropriate house-letting committees. Several times, inspections of the living conditions of short-listed applicants were made with the Housing Officer whenever Council houses were available. Very often, a detailed inspection of some of the houses vacated was necessary. In some instances, the owners were requested to carry out the repairs before re-letting or action taken under the Housing Acts.

## **Public Health.**

Eighteen new licences for moveable dwellings were granted, and together with renewal licences there were twenty-nine moveable dwellings in the district. Several applications were received to license sites for caravans, and a sub-committee inspected each site, but only in one instance was a licence granted for the seasonal period only.

An unlicensed site which was being used was found unsuitable because of the sanitation and water supply.

One case of a smoke nuisance was investigated and practical means are now being taken to abate the nuisance as best possible under the circumstances.

There were many investigations of nuisances for dangerous premises, quarries and pitshafts.

Numerous fumigations and disinfestations were carried out whenever houses became vacant or after infectious diseases.

A great deal of time was spent on advisory visits in connection with drainage and house improvements and alterations.

## **Food.**

216 inspections were made of any premises where food was prepared, stored or sold which included butchers' shops, ice cream premises, highway stalls selling fruit, fish and chip premises.

Three applications for catering licences were made to the Food Office as a result of which their premises were inspected to comply with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Food Bye-Laws.

## Inspections and Visits.

Milk .. .. .	81
Health .. .. .	631
Housing .. .. .	206
Factories .. .. .	39
Drainage .. .. .	224
Food and Drugs .. .. .	216
Pests .. .. .	4
With M.O.H. .. .. .	86
Shops .. .. .	19
Sampling .. .. .	80
Water .. .. .	130
Slaughterhouse .. .. .	538

## Meat.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	1,180	320	975	4,664	2,677	9,816
Number inspected	1,180	320	975	4,664	2,677	9,816
ALL DISEASES EX- CEPT T.B. .. ..						
Whole Carcases ..	3	6	3	28	43	83
Carcases of which some part was condemned ..	508	133	62	714	304	1,721
Percentage of no. inspected other than T.B. ..	43.05	41.56	0.063	15.3	11.35	
T.B. only .. ..						
Whole Carcases ..	2	—	—	—	5	7
Carcases of which some part was condemned ..	99	100	—	—	138	337
Percentage of no. inspected T.B. ..	8.3	31.25	—	—	5.15	
Totals						9,816

## ANALYSIS

Casualties	Market	Totals
Heifers .. .. . 4	665	669
Cow Heifers .. .. . 1	8	9
Steers .. .. . 4	485	489
Bulls .. .. . 4	9	13
Cows .. .. . 23	297	320
Calves .. .. . 17	958	975
Sheep and Lambs .. 127	4,537	4,664
Pigs .. .. . 926	1,751	2,677
Totals .. .. . 1,106	8,710	9,816
Increase in casualties over previous year 371 or 197%.		



Seven renewal licences to slaughter animals were granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

Apart from the usual notifications to the M.O.H. under the Anthrax Order of 1938, it was necessary on two occasions to suspend slaughtering at the local slaughterhouse due to suspected anthrax. Microscopic examination of blood slides proved negative on both occasions.

As in previous years, a great deal of time was spent at the local slaughterhouse for the purpose of meat inspection. Some 538 visits were made which include visits most evenings of the week as well as 38 visits during Saturdays, Sundays and recognised holidays.

During the early part of the year a considerable number of casualty pigs were received at the slaughterhouse with virus pneumonia. Very few of these carcasses were condemned. There was always the suspected swine fever contact pigs being admitted, and here again not one case was found upon post-mortem inspection.

#### Meat Condemned.

5 carcasses of cattle	..	..	..	..	..	1,768 lbs.
6 carcasses of cows	..	..	..	..	..	2,598 „
3 carcasses of calves	..	..	..	..	..	273 „
28 carcasses of sheep	..	..	..	..	..	1,071 „
48 carcasses of pigs	..	..	..	..	..	3,622 „
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	2,780 „
Veal	..	..	..	..	..	83 „
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	81 „
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	293 „
134 bovine heads	..	..	..	..	..	4,292 „
170 bovine lungs	..	..	..	..	..	1,501 „
505 livers	..	..	..	..	..	6,837 „
269 part livers	..	..	..	..	..	1,843 „
724 sheep livers	..	..	..	..	..	1,341 „

#### Other foods condemned

Meat, tins	..	..	..	..	....	138 lbs.
Carcase meat	..	..	..	..	..	783 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> lbs.
Sausage, tins	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sausage	..	..	..	..	..	26 „
Fish, tins	..	..	..	..	..	15
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	28 „
Milk, tins	..	..	..	..	..	14
Cream, tins	..	..	..	..	..	3
Liver	..	..	..	..	..	7 „
Fishpaste, jars	..	..	..	..	..	96
Vegetables, tins	..	..	..	..	..	115
Fruit, tins	..	..	..	..	..	140
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	47 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> lbs.
Cheese, packets	..	..	..	..	..	4

## WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT

Area=25,154 acres; Population=17,870 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses=5,513.

Rateable Value=£52,067; Product of 1d. Rate=£187 18s. 4d. (Year ending 31/3/53).

Birth Rate=17.3 per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.10 this gives a corrected rate of 19.0.

Excess of births over deaths=309—212=97.

Death Rate=11.9. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of .97 this gives a corrected rate of 11.5.

### Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	166	127	293	5	11	16	171	138	309
Still Births	4	6	10	—	—	—	4	6	10
Deaths under 1 year	4	2	6	—	—	—	4	2	6
Deaths under 4 weeks	4	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	4

### Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	5	1	6
Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease .. ..	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	15	10	25
Diabetes .. ..	—	—	—
Vascular diseases of the nervous system ..	7	16	23
Coronary disease, angina .. ..	16	4	20
Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	3	—	3
Other heart disease .. ..	28	25	53
Other circulatory disease .. ..	5	5	10
Influenza .. ..	4	5	9
Pneumonia .. ..	2	—	2
Bronchitis .. ..	7	7	14
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	10	—	10
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	3	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of the prostate .. ..	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations .. ..	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	9	5	14
Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	2	—	2
All other accidents .. ..	6	—	6
Suicide .. ..	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war .. ..	—	—	—
Totals .. ..	130	82	212

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SANITARY NOTES**

### **Water Supply.**

The Lime Kilns Pools Spring came into use in May and soon became the largest source of supply. The rapid increase in consumption was thus met and the fear of shortage averted.

### **Sewerage.**

The scheme to sewer Berry Hill was commenced. I must emphasise that Bream, Lydbrook and Broadwell badly need to be sewered. Most of the town of Coleford is now sewered and this is, indeed, the only part of the District which is sewered. It is however, a disappointment that Carters Factory is not connected to this sewerage system and that the sewage admixed with trade drainage enters the Whitecliff brook after very imperfect treatment, so that this brook is just as polluted as it was before the Coleford sewers were laid.

### **Schools Sanitation.**

In a District in which the Schools have a good standard of sanitation, English Bicknor was outstanding in its privy midden type of lavatories. The school was also outstanding in its lack of washing facilities although mains water was available, lack of artificial light although surrounding trees darkened the classrooms and the poor state of the playground. After the publicity given to my report to the Council, the Managers elected to apply for controlled status.

### **Sanitary Inspector.**

Mr. Hudson ceased work as inspector at the end of November, 1952, and it was not until the beginning of March, 1953, that Mr. Bebb commenced his duties. This undue delay in the appointment of an inspector in a District of 18,000 population with heavy sanitary duties which could well take the full-time services of two inspectors was serious.



# Post War Housing—No. of Houses completed in following years.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Parish of Coleford ..		4	8	13	16	28	12	81
Parish of English Bicknor .. ..			4		16			20
Parish of Staunton ..					4			4
Parish of Newland ..		2						2
Parish of Lydbrook		33	17				12	62
Parish of West Dean	25	88	10	58	27	5	44	257
	25	127	39	71	63	33	68	426
TYPES:	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	
Traditional .. ..	12	17	29	33	27	5	20	
Aireys .. ..		8	10	38				
Cornish .. ..					16	12	48	
Unity .. ..						16		
Prefabs .. ..	13	100			20			
Taylors .. ..		2						
	25	127	39	71	63	33	68	426
Private (including 1 built in 1946) ..	6	3	10	12	7	9	19	67

## Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to mains supply	
			(i) direct	(ii) standpipe
West Dean Parish:—				
Bream .. ..	2,426	739	493	1
Ellwood .. ..	595	141	74	17
Broadwell .. ..	1,640	513	394	—
Berry Hill .. ..	1,608	407	292	19
Milkwall .. ..	661	205	108	—
Whitcroft .. ..	1,223	474	280	6
Parkend .. ..	738	193	187	—
Yorkley .. ..	1,157	386	293	—
Viney Hill .. ..	450	132	53	11
Total W.D. Parish ..	10,498	3,190	2,174	54
Coleford .. ..	3,095	969	862	13
English Bicknor ..	521	157	107	4
Lydbrook Ward ..	1,513	473	314	—
Joys Green Ward ..	941	312	251	—
Lydbrook Parish ..	(2,454)	(785)	(565)	—
Clearwell .. ..	742	222	124	—
Redbrook .. ..	372	127	97	—
Total Newland Parish ..	(1,114)	(349)	(221)	—
Staunton .. ..	188	62	50	—
Total W.D.R.D. ..	17,870	5,512	3,979	71



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

### Housing.

(a) Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .. .. .                          | 11  |
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners and still in force .. | 2   |
| (iii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders .. .. .                           | nil |

(b) Action under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Parts of dwelling houses closed .. .. .	1
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A large number of houses, many now almost derelict, are still standing in the Rural District although demolition orders, or clearance orders, were made as long ago as 1934. Some, including houses subject to undertakings not to re-let, are still occupied.

The results of a survey carried out in an endeavour to effect the removal of these 'eyesores' were as follows:—

	Unoccupied	Occupied
(a) Houses subject to demolition orders	36	15
(b) Houses subject to clearance orders	44	7
(c) Houses subject to undertakings not to re-let .. .. .	4	5

Great difficulty was experienced in ascertaining the present owners, but letters were eventually sent in relation to all the properties. So far three properties, subject to clearance orders, have been demolished.

One "Certificate as to state of repair" was issued under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts 1920—1939.

Fifteen Abatement Notices affecting twelve premises were served under the Public Health Act 1936.

The necessary work at nine of the properties was completed by the end of the year.

## Water Supply

150 samples of water were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:—

Source	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Springs serving Redbrook Supply ..	20	16	4
Limekiln Pool Springs (Before Chlorination) .. .. .	12	11	1
Limekiln Pool Springs (After Chlorination) .. .. .	4	4	Nil
Direct from taps on Main Supply ..	31	30	1
Public Wells .. .. .	71	27	44
Domestic Reservoirs .. .. .	3	Nil	3
Individual Well Supplies .. .. .	9	1	8
Totals .. .. .	150	89	61

From the above table it can be seen that the mains water supplied by the West Dean Rural District Council is of high quality. Unfortunately it is not available to all properties in the district. Use has therefore to be made of alternative sources of supply, such as wells and rain water reservoirs, which are very poor substitutes.

Twenty-eight public wells are still in use from which 155 properties obtain their supply of water. Of these 80 have no main available.

## Milk and Dairies

### Registration of persons distributing milk.

Number on register at beginning of 1953 ..	—	44
Removed from register during year:		
(a) discontinued distributing .. .. .	19	
(b) producer-retailers .. .. .	20	39
Total distributors left on register .. .. .		5
Added to register .. .. .		8
Total distributors at end of year .. .. .		13

In addition 35 producer-retailers distributed milk in the area.

Contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were noted as follows:—

(a) Persons opening vessels containing milk in course of conveyance or transferring milk from one receptacle to another in places other than registered premises .. .. .	12
(b) Persons with their names and addresses not legible and conspicuously displayed on the vehicles or vessels .. .. .	30

Informal action was taken and by the end of the year eight retailers had discontinued the use of delivery buckets and churns, and were selling all their milk in bottles. Fifteen had painted their names and addresses on their vehicles.

#### Registration of premises used as dairies.

Number on register at beginning of 1953	6
Removed from register during year ..	3
Added to register .. .. .	3
Total registered dairies .. .. .	6

#### Sampling.

A total of 102 samples of milk were collected and submitted for examination at the Public Heath Laboratory, Newport.

Results were as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test				Phosphatase Test	
Raw Milk		Pasteurised Milk		Pasteurised Milk	
Satisfactory	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
45	8	36	13	42	7

The large number of pasteurised milks which did not pass the Methylene Blue Test is accounted for by a batch of twelve school milks taken on the same morning—not one of which passed the test.

Four of the seven pasteurised milks which did not pass the Phosphatase Test were obtained from one distributor who sold the milk as “Ordinary Milk” and who did not therefore take care to see that his milks were not mixed.

As a matter of routine all raw milks submitted to the Newport Laboratory are tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli. One only of the 53 samples submitted was found to be positive, and action was taken under the Milk and Diaries Regulations in that case.

Tests for the presence of *Brucella Abortus* are carried out only on request.

#### Food Premises

It was not possible to inspect all food premises in the period of nine months after taking up my appointment on April 1st. Sufficient were visited, however, to show that in the main they are of a very low standard indeed.

All the butcher’s shops were inspected and it was found necessary to serve informal notices on 21 of the 22 owners.

The principal defects were:—

1	No water laid on .. .. .	13
	(The main is available in each case)	
2	No adequate means of heating water ..	19
3	No sinks .. .. .	12



Improvements were effected by the end of the year but the matter is still being pursued.

Four shops were registered for the manufacture of sausages and pickled or preserved food.

### **Ice Cream.**

During the year five premises were registered for the sale and storage of ice cream.

Sixty-eight samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for examination by the Methylene Blue Test.

Results were as follows:—

GRADES:	I	II	III	IV
	37	23	6	2

### **Meat and Food Inspection.**

The quantity of food condemned was:—

855lbs. of carcase meat, mainly beef condemned for bone taint; 172lbs. of assorted foodstuffs including butter, bacon, boiled ham, sausages, cheese, fudge and coconut ice; and 113 tins of assorted foods.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

Fourteen licences to slaughter animals were granted under this Act during 1953.

### **Caravan Sites.**

One licence was granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to use a parcel of land for the stationing of one moveable dwelling.

### **Shops Act, 1950.**

Applications were received from four shop owners for certificates exempting them from the necessity of providing in their shops suitable Sanitary Conveniences as required by Section 38 (2).

One certificate was granted.

### **Petroleum and Calcium Carbide.**

Premises licensed in 1953 for the keeping of petroleum spirit or calcium carbide were:—

Petroleum Spirit	..	..	..	..	..	55
Calcium Carbide	..	..	..	..	..	23

**Rats and Mice.**

Record of inspections made and treatments carried out:—

Number of properties inspected	..	..	..	1398
Number found to be infested by rats	..	..	..	70
Number found to be infested by mice	..	..	..	26
Number of infestations treated by:—				
(a) operator	..	..	..	85
(b) by reference to A.E.C.	..	..	..	11

**SURVEYOR’S REPORT**

Mr. H. Parks reports as follows:—

**1. Sources of Supply.**

This year is one of special note in the history of water supply within the West Dean area, mainly because the new source of supply from the Lime Kiln Pool Springs was brought into operation, but also because the Report of the North Gloucestershire Water Supply Survey of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was published.

**Redbrook.**

Before mentioning the two foregoing matters in greater detail however, a brief note on the source of supply to the Redbrook pumping station is desirable. These sources comprise a series of springs in sandstone and limestone, the water derived being piped to the pumping station and thence pumped to a storage reservoir for distribution, chlorination being effected at the pumping station.

During the year one of the springs in this series was found to be badly polluted and on investigation this proved to be due to pig farming activities in the vicinity of the spring. In view of the small amount of water yielded from this source the spring was discarded and cut out from the supply.

Since the supply to Redbrook village by-passes the pumping station, no chlorination of the water to the village is effected, and this has been brought to the attention of the Council who have instructed the necessary steps to be taken to instal chlorination apparatus on the supply line.

**Lime Kiln Pools, Lydbrook.**

This source of supply which is derived from limestone was brought into effective use during May. Since that date it has formed the main source of supply for West Dean and has also afforded a daily bulk supply of approximately 35,000 gallons per day to

East Dean Rural District. In addition it was possible on the advent of this source of supply to transfer West Dean consumers at Joys Green from East Dean supplies to our own. Thus the burden of water supply of the neighbouring Authority must have been appreciably eased.

The Lydbrook pumping station pumps water from the Lime Kiln source to Eddy's Lane reservoir, the water being chlorinated on its way through the station; it also, however, boosts direct into the existing distribution mains and in addition the Joys Green area receives a supply direct from the rising main.

The total output from the two pumping stations for the year is as follows:—

Redbrook:	94,429,000 gallons (whole year).
Lydbrook:	53,000,000 gallons (part year).

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147,429,000 gallons

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Compared with 1952 this is an increase of 22,429,000 gallons, and an increase in consumption per head per day of from 21 in 1952 to 23 for 1953.

## **2. North Gloucestershire Water Supply Survey.**

The chief points of this report are that the Lime Kiln Pool source should be considered as temporary; that the pressures in the distribution mains are in some cases excessive; that there should be no more two inch diameter mains laid; that because of the heavy rainfall and the hardness of mains water, some householders have not a piped supply but prefer to use rain water.

The recommendations of the report are:—

- (1) To develop existing and provide new sources.
- (2) To abandon existing dubious supplies.
- (3) To provide additional service reservoir storage to ensure a two day supply.
- (4) To provide mains of adequate carrying capacity.
- (5) To amalgamate with other water Authorities, chief of whom is the Cheltenham and Gloucester Water Board.

I do not disagree with the first four of these recommendations, but can express no opinion on the fifth as much consideration to aspects other than purely technical needs to be given to the suggestion.

## **3. Rainfall.**

The total of rainfall for the year was 29.9 inches, of which 21.06 inches fell in the six months April to September inclusive. There is, of course, greater danger of contamination of supplies from surcharged sewers, concentrated surface run-off and so on from these conditions.



#### **4. Water Distribution.**

Eight schemes of water main laying were carried out during the year, of which three were extensions to housing sites and the other five to serve existing properties.

The Council were able, in view of the additional source now available at Lydbrook, to arrange a new 6 inch connection to the Royal Forest Factory of Carters, and to agree to supply them up to 100,000 gallons per day should they so desire.

# LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT

Area=25,544 acres; Population=11,930 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses=3,227.

Rateable Value=£49,184. Product of 1d. Rate=£189 6s. 3d.

Birth Rate=14.9 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.15 this gives a corrected rate of 17.2.

Excess of births over deaths=178—105=73.

Death Rate=8.8 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.01 this gives a corrected rate of 8.9.

## Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	102	68	170	4	4	8	106	72	178
Still Births	2	2	4	2	—	2	4	2	6
Deaths under 1 year	3	2	5	—	1	1	3	3	6
Deaths under 4 weeks	2	1	3	—	1	1	2	2	4

## Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	2	—	2
Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease .. ..	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	11	8	19
Diabetes .. ..	1	—	1
Vascular diseases of the nervous system ..	—	8	8
Coronary disease, angina .. ..	3	4	7
Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	1	1	2
Other heart disease .. ..	13	15	28
Other circulatory disease .. ..	5	—	5
Influenza .. ..	1	2	3
Pneumonia .. ..	—	1	1
Bronchitis .. ..	4	—	4
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	2	—	2
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of the prostate .. ..	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations .. ..	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4	8	12
Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	—	—	—
All other accidents .. ..	2	2	4
Suicide .. ..	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war .. ..	1	—	1
Totals .. ..	56	49	105

## Population, Number of houses and Mains Water Supply.

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to mains supply	
			(i) direct	(ii) standpipe
Lydney .. ..	4,967	1,415	1,331	—
Tidenham .. ..	2,552	736	591	12
St. Briavels .. ..	1,080	356	8	
Aylburton .. ..	756	229	151	
Woolaston .. ..	812	241	116	26
Hewelsfield .. ..	465	135	39	—
Alvington .. ..	428	115	83	10
Total R.D. .. ..	11,060*	3,227	2,319	48

\*This is 870 less than the Registrar General's Estimate of 11,930 so as to allow for the personel and apprentices at Beachley Army Apprentices' School.

The mains water supplies to which the above figures relate are as follows:—

LYDNEY—Ferneyley Supply augmented by Tufts Level.

TIDENHAM—Chepstow Water Company.

ST. BRIAVELS—The Upper and Lower Barrow Wells which supply the village by standpipes and eight Council houses and a number of private houses by direct connection.

AYLBURTON—Ninety of the 151 properties given as connected to the mains are supplied by a small village supply, the rest are supplied by the Lydney Mains.

WOOLASTON—This is a very poor spring supply. Samples show this to be contaminated and very little can be done to improve it.

HEWELSFIELD—The thirty-nine properties are connected to the Spout Supply of reasonably good quality. The Merricks Brook supply to the Council houses and School is a poor contaminated source.

ALVINGTON—This village is supplied by the Lydney Mains.

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SANITARY NOTES

### Water Supply.

Permission was obtained from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to start the scheme for the supply of water to the high levels (St. Briavels and Hewelsfield) from the new boreholes. I hope that this will soon be followed by the building of a new reservoir at Chapel Hill, Aylburton, so that Woolaston and Aylburton may be supplied and the Tufts level supply, an impure supply upon which Lydney Town partly depends, diverted to industrial use. The new reservoir will enable fuller use to be made of the wholesome Ferneyley supply.



## **Sewerage.**

The Ministry's consent to proceed with the Aylburton scheme was obtained. The villages of Alvington and St. Briavels badly need to be sewered.

## **Sanitation of Schools.**

Mr. Richards inspected all the Schools during the year. The Lydney Schools (Grammar, Secondary Modern, County Infants, County Junior, Church Road, former C. of E., and Primrose Hill) all are supplied with water from the Lydney Mains, and they connect to the Lydney sewer. They all have washing facilities.

## **Aylburton.**

Mains water supply. W.Cs. draining to the Council house Estate's septic tank.

## **Alvington.**

Mains water supply. Pail closets.

## **Woolaston.**

Village water supply, water closet to septic tank. Wash basins being provided.

## **Tidenham, Chepstow.**

Chepstow Mains supply and septic tank, wash basins.

## **Tidenham and Beachley County Infants.**

Chepstow Water Supply and water closets draining to Beachley sewer which outfalls into the River Wye.

## **Hewelsfield, Brockweir County.**

Water supply from Merricks Brook which is impure and drainage to septic tank. Wash basins provided.

## **St. Briavels Parochial.**

Rain water supply and pail closets. Wash basins drain to road-side drain.

## HOUSING

Number of houses completed in the following years.

Mr. Spratt has provided me with the following table:—

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Lydney .. ..	3	3	59	19	35	16	36	37
Tidenham .. ..	3	1	17	5	25	7	6	18
St. Briavels .. ..	1			1	5		1	3
Aylburton .. ..						5	13	3
Woolaston .. ..		2		4	12		2	2
Hewlesfield .. ..			4				1	
Alvington .. ..					8			4
	7	6	80	29	85	28	59	67
TYPES	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Traditional .. ..		2	30	4	6	6	5	11
Aireys .. ..			48	20	60			
Cornish .. ..					8	16	10	16
Unity .. ..							32	20
Private .. ..	7	4	2	5	11	6	12	20
	7	6	80	29	85	28	59	67

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

### HOUSING

**Demolition and Closing Orders. Houses**

**(1) Housing Act, 1936.**

- (a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 .. .. . 1
- (b) Houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force .. 3
- (c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) .. .. . 1

**(2) Housing Act, 1936.**

- (a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1) .. .. . 0
- (b) Demolition Orders determined and closing orders substituted under Section 3 (2) .. .. . 0

**(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.**

- Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) .. .. . 0

**Repairs.**

### Informal Action

- (4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts .. 4

## Action Under Statutory Powers

### (5) Public Health Acts.

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) By Owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
(b) By local authority in default of owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

### (6) Housing Act, 1936.

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices. (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16).

(a) By Owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

**Note:**—A defective house remedied more than once during the period is included once only.

Few of the overcrowded cases investigated were relieved.

Licences to occupy six condemned properties were again issued for six-monthly periods.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (SECS. 268—69)

### Licences granted during the Year.

(a) To use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	0
(b) To use or Station and Use a Moveable Dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	3
(c) Renewal of licences	..	..	..	..	..	10
(d) Application for licence refused	..	..	..	..	..	1
(e) Licences cancelled (no applications for renewal)	..	..	..	..	..	4

## Water Supply

Forty-five Water Samples taken from various sources were submitted for analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Newport, Mon. (**Piped supplies 37, Public Wells 8**).

### Summary of Reports.

### Number of samples

Bacteriologically satisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	16
Slight contamination	..	..	..	..	..	19
Heavy contamination	..	..	..	..	..	7
Gross contamination	..	..	..	..	..	3

### Bathurst Swimming Pool.

Three samples bacteriologically satisfactory. (Free Residual Chlorine 0.05 p.p.m.).

### Beachley Swimming Pool.

The examinations of two samples show slight contamination with coliform bacteria of the “non-faecal” and faecal types.

One sample was Bacteriologically satisfactory. (Free Residual Chlorine 0.02 p.p.m.).



**Public Wells.**

Improvements were carried out to five public wells in the parishes of St. Briavels, Hewelsfield and Tidenham.

**Disinfection.**

Number of premises disinfected:—			
Tuberculosis	..	..	7
Other Diseases	..	..	18
Verminous	..	..	11

**Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

Dairies not at farm	..	2
Distributors	.. ..	16

Sixteen milk samples were taken from retail suppliers of milk in course of delivery.

**The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Laboratory			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Gloucester	..	..	7	0
Newport	..	..	4	0
			—	—
			11	0
			—	—

**The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Laboratory			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Gloucester	..	..	3	0
Newport	..	..	2	1
			—	—
			5	1
			—	—

**Moore's Swabs.**

Thirteen Moore Swabs were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, Mon., for examination. Reports on these were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health at meetings held by the Council in May and September.

# MEAT REGULATIONS

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned for Year 1953.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	251	58	7	3232	124
Number inspected .. .. (Total: 3672)	251	58	7	3232	124
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</b>					
Whole Carcases condemned .. ..	1	—	—	7	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	164	26	3	561	73
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than Tuberculosis	65.7%	44.8%	42.8%	17.5%	62.9%
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>					
Whole Carcases condemned .. ..	1	1	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	5	7	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. ..	2.3%	13.7%	—	—	3.2%

## Amount of meat condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption:—8,985 lbs.

### Bovine:—

3 Carcases .. ..	1,689 lbs.	
33 Bovine heads .. ..	921 lbs.	
127 Bovine livers .. ..	1,821 lbs.	
37 Bovine Lungs .. ..	315 lbs.	
Offal .. ..	248 lbs.	
Parts of Bovine Carcases .. ..	748 lbs.	Total 5,742 lbs.

### Sheep and Lambs:—

7 Sheep Carcases .. ..	248 lbs.	
476 Sheep livers .. ..	901 lbs.	
79 Sheep heads and plucks .. ..	541 lbs.	Total 1,772 lbs.

### Pigs:—

7 Pig carcasses .. ..	1,023 lbs.	
69 Pig Plucks .. ..	308 lbs.	
4 Pig Heads .. ..	33 lbs.	
2 Pig Livers .. ..	6 lbs.	
Parts of carcasses .. ..	81 lbs.	Total 1,451 lbs.

### Calves:—

1 Calf Head .. ..	4 lbs.	
1 Calf Pluck .. ..	3 lbs.	
Part of carcass .. ..	13 lbs.	Total 20 lbs.

### Imported:—

Parts of carcasses .. ..	132 lbs.
(Not included in above total)	

**Cysticercus Bovis.**

Five Bovine Carcases affected with Cysticercus Bovis with the exception of the offal were removed to Gloucester to be placed in cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20 deg. Fahrenheit for a period of at least three weeks, or at a temperature not exceeding 14 deg. Fahrenheit for a period of two weeks.

**Other Foods condemned as Unfit for human consumption.**

406 tins of various foodstuffs, 276lbs. Cheese, 28lb. tin of Whole Frozen Egg, 12lbs. Sausages, 8½lbs. Cooked Ham, 36 jars Orange Curd, 30 Bottles Salad Cream, 525lbs. Oatmeal, 67lbs. Malt Flour, 122lbs. Ruskit, 40lbs. Soya Beans.

**Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952.**

Number on the Register—Retailer Producer—Pre-packed	..	24
Retailer Producer—Cold-mix	..	2
Retailer Producer—Hot-mix	..	0

Eighteen samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination.

Details.	Grade	I	II	III	IV	Total
		17	1	0	0	18

**Methylene Blue Test.**

Grade 1. Samples not decolourised at the end of four hours	17
Grade 2. Sample was decolourised at the end of two hours	1

In addition to the above seven Lolly samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination.

Details.	Grade	I	II	III	IV	Total
		7	0	0	0	7

**Methylene Blue Test.**

Grade 1. Samples not decolourised at the end of 4 hours	..	7
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**LYDNEY SHIPPING**

**Amount of Shipping Entering the Port During the Year 1953.**

	Number	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	No. of vessels on which defects were remedied	Total Inspected by Sn. Insp
COASTWISE ..					
Steamers ..	0	0	0	0	0
Motors ..	606	36,811	0	0	25
Sailing ..	292	21,421	0	0	18
Fishing ..	0	0	0	0	0
Total ..	898	58,232	0	0	43

No Foriegn Shipping entered the Port during the year.  
\*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.  
Imports: Timber 15,313 Tons; Grain for storage 3,557 Tons.  
Exports: Coal 95,091 Tons; Grain 7,395 Tons.



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for Year ending 31st December, 1953.

## Type of Property

	Local Author- ity	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	All other including business premises
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 12 months ended 31st December, 1953, as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose .. .. .	(a) — (b) 7 (c) 7	23 310 —	— 48 11	4 68 164
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats .. .. .	Major Minor	— 72	2 8	3 7
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested with mice ..	—	15	—	5
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ..	4	72	—	12
Number of notices served under Section 4:—				
(1) Treatment .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works ..	—	—	—	—
(i.e. Proofing)				
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following issue of a notice under Section 4 .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Number of (Block) control schemes carried out .. .. .		9		

**Note:—**The above report is for six-months work carried out by the Pests Officer who is employed jointly by the Lydney and East Dean Rural District Councils.

## GENERAL

### Complaints Received:—

Nuisances reported to District Council	..	..	78
(a) Total	..	..	78
(b) Swine	..	..	2
Number of nuisances abated	..	..	73
Number of preliminary notices served	..	..	78
Statutory notices served	..	..	2
Nuisances unabated	..	..	5

### Petroleum Acts.

Forty-five licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.

<b>Summary:—</b> Filling-stations	..	..	..	14
Farms	..	..	..	7
Factories	..	..	..	6
Quarries	..	..	..	3
Business premises	..	..	..	15

### Shops Act, 1950.

(a) After receiving planning consent and without structural alterations, the front room being part of a dwelling is now a shop for the sale of sweets and tobacco.

To convert front rooms of dwelling-houses into shops, was that such conversions were undesirable, and were in my opinion only parlour shops.

(b) One shop by reason of restricted accommodation could not comply with the requirements of Section 38, was therefore closed as being unsuitable for the sale of food.

### Number inspected of each of the following:—

						Inspections
(a) Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	81
(b) Grocers' shops	..	..	..	..	..	175
(c) Other Trades	..	..	..	..	..	69
(d) Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	87

				Number on Register	Number Inspected	Total Number of Inspections
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	10	1	252
Dairies	..	..	..	2	2	26
Bakehouses	..	..	..	11	8	27
Factories	..	..	..	31	31	65
Workshops	..	..	..	24	24	48

## Factories Act, 1937—48.

During the Year:—			Added	Deleted	Change
Factories	..	..	2	1	2
Workshops	..	..	0	0	0

<b>Outworkers:—</b> Whitecroft Pin Manufacturing Co., Ltd.,					
Harbour Road, Lydney, Glos.	..	..			17
O. Ferguson & Co. (1937) Limited, 2—3,					
Charterhouse Square, E.C.1.	..	..			1

(Sections 34—37) Three Certificates as to the Means of Escape in case of Fire were issued to Factories.

## SURVEYOR'S REPORT:

### WATER SUPPLY

Mr. H. I. Spratt reports as follows:—

#### Lydney Main Supply.

The water for the supply is from two sources; Ferneyley Springs is pumped to the reservoir at Aylburton Common, and Tufts Level is a gravity supply and is used for the lower areas of the town and the main industrial consumers.

The estimated supply is as follows:—

Yield of Ferneyley Springs during the					
year	..	..	..	..	109,050,000 gallons
Amount utilised	..	..	..	..	68,196,000 „
Amount allowed to run to waste	..			..	40,856,000 „
Water used from Tufts Level	..	..		..	30,000,000 „

Tufts Level again provided part of the supply to the town, and no serious trouble was experienced during the year and I feel this proves the wisdom of carrying out a regular inspection of the timber shoring. The yield from this source, however, appears to be diminishing. Both supplies are chlorinated, samples were taken and reported upon as satisfactory.

A small private supply provides water to the majority of the houses in Aylburton village, but the Housing Estate and Lower Common are supplied from Ferneyley Springs. A small private supply was found to be polluted and a further eight houses were connected to the mains.

Netherend and Woolston is supplied from springs at Woolaston Common, and is inadequate during dry weather, the Ferneyley supply in Alvington was extended to link with Woolaston, and it is intended to complete the larger main in Alvington during the coming year. When this link is completed it will enable the Woolaston supply to be supplemented.



Tidenham and Beachley are supplied by the Chepstow Water Company and the council houses at Stroat and Hewelsfield have small piped supplies. The work carried out last year at St. Briavels has provided a temporary improvement and enabled six additional houses to be commenced, but the continuation of the housing programme in the village will be a heavy tax on the limited supply of water.

The Brockweir supply has been adequate and samples taken were satisfactory.

The remainder of the district is supplied from wells and springs and in a few cases rain water tanks.

Main extensions were carried out during the year to the Housing Estates at Driffild Lane and The Harbour, Lydney.

The head works to the second borehole were completed, as well as the installation of the pump and temporary switch gear house to the first borehole. There was no necessity to draw from this source during the year but the pumps were run periodically.

The result of the investigation into the Council's scheme was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, dissatisfaction was expressed and a deputation visited the Ministry in London. Resulting from this interview, permission was received to go to tender for the High Level Scheme comprising the parishes of Hewelsfield and St. Briavels and a new 9 inch main from Aylburton to Lydney with a 6 inch extension to Tutnalls. It was also intimated that the remainder of the comprehensive scheme should be included in another contract in 1955.

A satisfactory tender was received for the construction of the Allastone Mesne Booster Station, which received Ministry approval and work commenced in August, and completed before the end of the year. This work has greatly improved the supply to Allastone Mesne, and the householders at the highest point now receive a constant supply.

Every effort must still be made to effect an early completion on the High Levels of St. Briavels and Hewelsfield where water is so desperately needed and also the construction of the new reservoir and works at Aylburton Common as without these latter works there is no measure of security to the supply to the town of Lydney.











